

Table Group

Week of August 30, 2021

James 2:1-10, 14-17

2 My brothers and sisters, when you show favoritism you deny the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has been resurrected in glory. **2** Imagine two people coming into your meeting. One has a gold ring and fine clothes, while the other is poor, dressed in filthy rags. **3** Then suppose that you were to take special notice of the one wearing fine clothes, saying, "Here's an excellent place. Sit here." But to the poor person you say, "Stand over there"; or, "Here, sit at my feet." **4** Wouldn't you have shown favoritism among yourselves and become evil-minded judges?

5 My dear brothers and sisters, listen! Hasn't God chosen those who are poor by worldly standards to be rich in terms of faith? Hasn't God chosen the poor as heirs of the kingdom he has promised to those who love him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor. Don't the wealthy make life difficult for you? Aren't they the ones who drag you into court? **7** Aren't they the ones who insult

the good name spoken over you at your baptism?

8 You do well when you really fulfill the royal law found in scripture, *Love your neighbor as yourself.*^[a] **9** But when you show favoritism, you are committing a sin, and by that same law you are exposed as a lawbreaker. **10** Anyone who tries to keep all of the Law but fails at one point is guilty of failing to keep all of it.

14 My brothers and sisters, what good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to have faith can't save anyone, can it? **15** Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. **16** What if one of you said, "Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!"? What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? **17** In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity.

How do your works support your faith? How does your faith in God move you to action on behalf of others?

Ponder these questions and share as you are comfortable:

- *What known sins have you committed since our last meeting?*
- *What temptations have you met with?*
- *How were you delivered?*
- *What have you thought, said, or done, of which you doubt whether it be sin or not?*
- *Have you nothing you desire to keep secret?*